KID COLT
OUTLAW
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JULY
SLAP LEATHER WITH KID COLT, AS "GUNS ROAR IN GILA PASS!"
THE THRASHER TWINS IN FRONT OF ME... AND BLACKIE BEHIND ME!! WHAT DO I DO NOW??

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KID COLT OUTLAW

"GUNS ROAR in GILA PASS!"

YOU CHEATED ME, BLACKIE! I SAW YUH WITH THAT EXTRA ACE UP YORE SLEEVE! I SAW-- HEY! STOP! WHA-WHAT ARE YUH DOIN'??
I'M GONNA SHOW YUH WHAT I DO TO HOMBRES WHO CALL ME A CHEAT, MISTER!
YOU! STRANGER! YOU WERE WATCHIN'! YOU DIDN'T SEE ME CHEAT, DID YUH?
THAT STRANGER BETTER AGREE WITH BLACKIE IF HE WANTS TO KEEP ON LIVIN'!
YEAH! BLACKIE'S BEEN ITCHIN' FOR A SHOOT-OUT ALL DAY!
HOMBRE, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WORSE THAN A CHEAT-- AND THAT'S A BAD CHEAT! AND THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
JACK KELLER

CHAPTER 1

"HOW IT BEGAN..."

Stan Lee

ARE YOU HINTIN' THAT I'M A CHEAT??
I AIN'T HINTIN' IT, JASPER! I'M SAYIN' IT RIGHT OUT!
ALRIGHT, SMART MAN! IF YUH KNOW ANY PRAYERS, YUH GOT EXACTLY FIVE SECONDS TO SAY 'EM!
CLICK!
DUCK FOR COVER!
BLACKIE'S GOT HIMSELF ANOTHER VICTIM!
GIVE 'EM ROOM!
AGAINST A COLD-BLOODED HOMBRE LIKE YOU, I RECKON FISTS ARE MORE USEFUL THAN PRAYERS!
WHAP!
BACK WHERE I COME FROM, BLACKIE, SHAVERS LIKE YOU AIN'T ALLOWED OUT AFTER DARK, IN CASE THEY RUN INTO A REAL MAN!
WHUMP!
NOW I RECKON MEBBE A LITTLE FRESH AIR'LL DO YUH SOME GOOD!
SPLAT!
THUD
2

STRANGER, ANY MAN WHO CAN HANDLE HIMSELF LIKE THAT DESERVES A DRINK ON THE HOUSE! WHAT'LL IT BE?
MUCH OBLIGED, AMIGO, BUT I GOT NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! I'M LOOKIN' FOR A GENT NAMED BARKER! YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM?
YOU MEAN OL' SETH BARKER?
THAT'S HIM!
HE LIVES ABOUT THREE MILES SOUTH OF HERE... OVER-LOOKIN' WILLOW CANYON! YOU CAN'T MISS IT!
GRACIAS, HOMBRES!
I WONDER WHO THAT JASPER IS?
I DUNNO... BUT I'D SURE RATHER HAVE 'IM WITH ME THAN AGIN' ME!
I MUST BE MIGHTY CLOSE TO SETH BARKER'S SPREAD NOW! SAY! THAT SOUNDS LIKE SHOOTIN' UP YONDER!
IT IS SHOOTIN'! TWO HOMBRES ARE FIRIN' AT SETH'S PLACE! LOOKS LIKE I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!
LOOK, RED! SOMEONE'S COMIN'!
LET'S TEACH 'IM NOT TO BUTT IN WHERE HE AIN'T WANTED! GUN 'IM DOWN, PATCH!
3

I RECKON EVEN IF I WAS THE MOST PEACE-LOVIN' CITIZEN IN THE WEST, THIS JUST WOULDN'T BE MUH DAY TO STAY OUTTA TROUBLE!
KA-POW
BLAM!
BLAM!
MUH GUN!
THUD
UGH! THE OTHER HOMBRE WINGED ME IN THE SHOULDER!
I GOT TO ACT AS IF HE MISSED ME! IF HE KNOWS HE HIT ME, HE'LL KEEP FIGHTIN'! HIS TWIN BROTHER IS ALREADY OUT OF ACTION! ALL I GOTTA DO IS BLUFF HIM OUT!
ALL RIGHT, MISTER! LET'S YOU AND ME FINISH THIS OFF RIGHT NOW!
I--I THOUGHT I WINGED YUH!
IT WORKED! THEY'RE HIGH-TAILIN' IT AWAY! NOW TO SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
KID! YUH GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!
4

SETH BARKER! WHAT'S WRONG?
COME INSIDE, KID...QUICK! I-I'M SINKIN' FAST!
I KNEW YUH'D COME WHEN YUH GOT MY MESSAGE, KID! YORE MUH LAST HOPE! BUT YORE ARM--YORE HURT!
DON'T WORRY NONE! IT'S JUST A SCRATCH! TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU!
YOU SAW THEM, KID! YOU CHASED 'EM OFF...BUT THEY'LL BE BACK! THEY'RE THE THRASHER TWINS, PATCH AND RED! THE TWO ORNERIEST HOMBRES IN THESE PARTS! THEY--THEY'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO CHASE ME OFF MY LAND... BUT I HADDA HOLD OUT... FOR MY NEPHEW'S SAKE!
YOUR NEPHEW!
THAT'S RIGHT! I'M A GONER! I DON'T COUNT! BUT HE'S STILL YOUNG! THEY'LL TRY TO TAKE THE RANCH AWAY FROM HIM, TOO! YOU GOTTA PROTECT 'IM, KID! YOU GOTTA PROMISE ME YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM!
SURE, OLD-TIMER! SURE!
HE'S ALL THE FAMILY I GOT, KID! HE'S KINDA WILD, BUT HE'S ALL I GOT! PROMISE YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF 'IM... PROMISE--
I PROMISE, SETH!--AMIGO--HOLD ON! I'LL GET A DOCTOR!
IT'S TOO LATE...BUT I DON'T MIND! I'LL CASH IN MY CHIPS HAPPY NOW... KNOWIN' THAT YOU'LL BE LOOKIN' AFTER BLACKIE!
BLACKIE !!?
5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

THE PEACEFUL MAN

HE was a traveling minstrel. Some call such folk "wayfaring strangers." But there were at least five counties in eastern New Mexico to which Jed Partriss was no stranger; and it was here he mainly roamed. If Jed had been a vagrant, in fact, he would hardly have been strumming "The Buffalo Herd" for Sheriff Dick Swidger of Parkston county. It was a hot day, but cool in the office. Both men had their feet up on opposite sides of the desk.

"Reckon I'll high-tail it over to Brazos county," Jed said. "Never been there, before."

"You're a peaceful man," Dick Swidger said. "Brazos county is a tough place."

"Full of dry-gulchin' owlhoots?" Jad asked, grinning.

Swidger shook his head. "No, but there's a cattle war almost on between Rud Hankel and Joe Trumper. No shots flyin' yet, but you never can tell when they will be." He chuckled. "Now a peaceful man like you . . ."

Jed interrupted with a sly gesture.

"Yes, I'm a peaceful man," he said. "But bein' peaceful don't mean I can't fight. You think I'd stay peaceful if some galoot started roughin' me up?"

He rose. Over both shoulders, when traveling, he wore a sort of shortened poncho made from a serape, that protected the guitar from the sun. He took a drink of clear spring water from the stone jug on the Sheriff's desk and waved goodbye.

"See you in a month or so," he said.

Jed had a somewhat spavined cayuse tied out at the rail. He mounted and started out of town. Brazos county was a hundred miles due southwest, with no towns in between, only a ranch here and there.

That night, he stopped at a ranch, paid for his supper and some horsefeed with an hour or so of singing and strumming, and was on his way in the morning. Occasional springs fed his thirst, and he had flour and bacon in his saddlebag for provender. Once more he stopped at a ranch house for the night, then was over the Brazos border by noon the next day.

For several days it might almost be said that Jed Partriss vanished. He didn't always stay with Sheriffs, or ranch owners, but oftener with lone squatters, or prospectors or one-crop men who took a small piece of open land and lived on it for a year with a kitchen garden to feed them, then wandered on. Jed had always figured that to find out what was going on, the best thing was to get down to grass roots, and ask the small people who were the grapevine through which rumors ran.

He shared grub with several such folk, and in a week's time learned a good deal about Brazos county. One squatter told him the most, on a quiet evening, as both sat out on the hard-packed ground before the shack, with corn ears roasting in a small, hot fire. Every so often, Jed picked at the guitar. It appeared that Brazos county was a good county for a man to live in, but that the impending cattle war between big ranchers Hankel and Trumper was bound to upset things badly. The worst thing was that there seemed no reason for it. Both men had hundreds of thousands of acres, and were making a good profit from them.

"Reckon they want to get bigger," the squatter said. "Maybe it's human nature." He sighed. "A man gets himself a piece of land, and thinks he's satisfied if he gets by . . . but soon he wants more and more."

"Nothing wrong with that," Jed said thoughtfully. "But such folk owe themselves and others some thought . . . a halt to figure just what grabbin' more is goin' to bring." He was silent for a moment, then he chuckled. "Yes, a man ought to count his blessings once in a while . . . just to see what he might lose if he overreaches himself and asks for more."

A few more days with increasingly discreet inquiries, and Jed started out on a very careful time schedule one day along the county road to Hay-

CONTINUED

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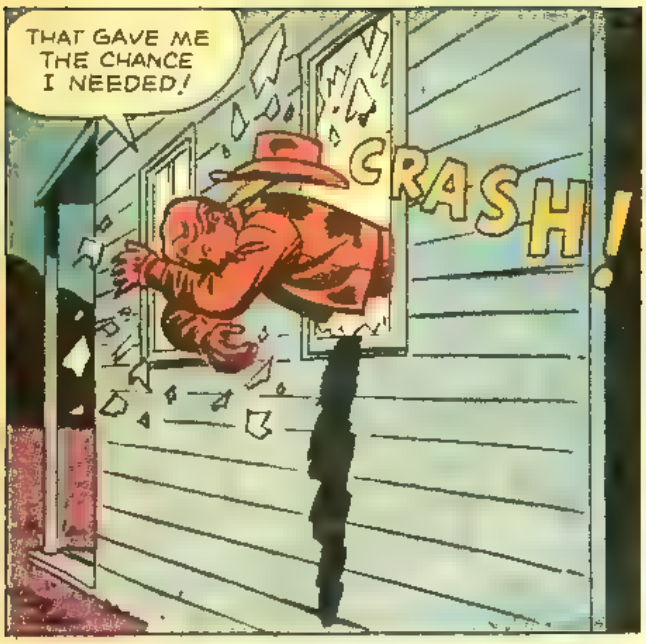
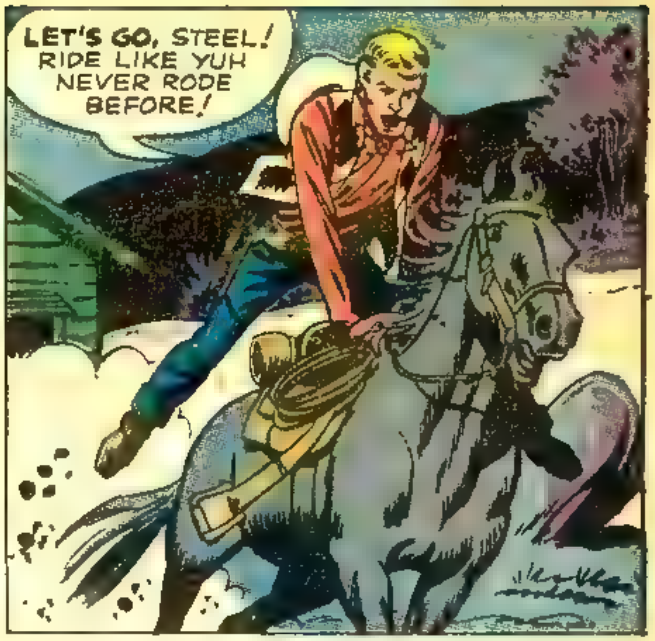
SETH! I MET A HOMBRE NAMED BLACKIE A WHILE BACK! HE WAS ABOUT NINETEEN... AND HARD AS NAILS! IS HE THE ONE? SETH? SETH??
SAVE YORE BREATH, KID! HE AIN'T LIKELY TO ANSWER ANY MORE QUESTIONS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!
BLACKIE!
DON'T MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVES, KID! THIS TIME I'LL SHOOT FIRST!
ARE YOU SETH'S NEPHEW??
I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS NOW, KID!
THWACK!
I RECKON I OWED YUH THAT! NOW, TO ANSWER YORE QUESTION-- YEAH, I'M OLD SETH'S NEPHEW! SO THAT MAKES THIS SPREAD MINE, KID!
WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLIN' ME KID?
DON'T ACT INNOCENT WITH ME, KID! I KNOW YORE KID COLT! UNCLE SETH TOLD ME HE WAS SENDIN FOR YUH, SO I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER!
WHAT ARE YUH PLANNIN' TO DO ABOUT IT, HOMBRE?
6

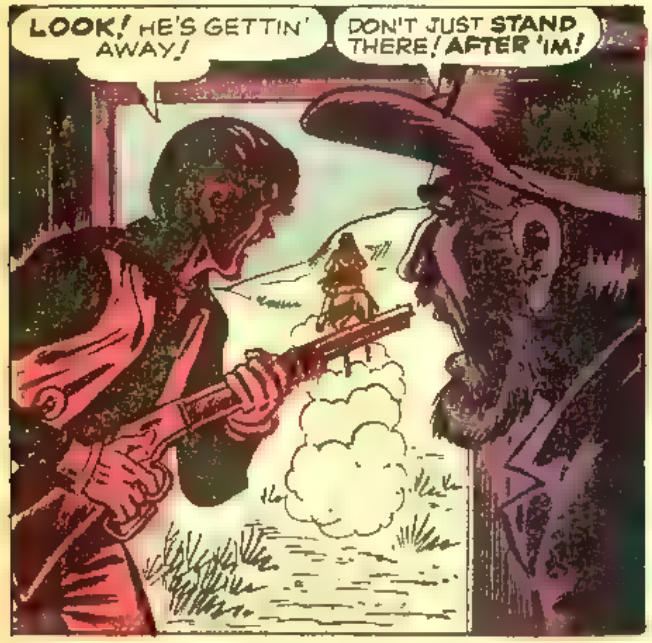
DO? I AIN'T RIGHTLY DECIDED YET! I KNOW THERE'S A BIG REWARD FOR YUH, DEAD OR ALIVE!
YORE A FOOL, BLACKIE! YUH'LL NEED MY HELP TO DEFEND THIS SPREAD AGAINST THE THRASHER TWINS!
I WILL, HUH? HAW HAW HAW!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT?
LOOK FOR YOURSELF, KID! HERE ARE THE THRASHERS NOW!
HOWDY, BLACKIE!
WE CAME BACK TO SETTLE A LITTLE SCORE WITH THAT HOMBRE!
YOU WERE WORKING WITH THE THRASHERS ALL THE TIME!
SURE, AND MY UNCLE NEVER SUSPECTED IT!
STEP ASIDE, BLACKIE! LET ME AT -- THAT HOMBRE!
LOOKS LIKE CURTAINS FOR ME! I'M GETTIN' WEAK FROM THE WOUND IN MY SHOULDER, AND THE ODDS ARE THREE TO ONE!
BUT I'LL-- I'LL GO DOWN FIGHTIN'--
7

PART 2 "GUNS ROAR in GILA PASS"

MY ONLY CHANCE... IF I CAN SHOOT OUT THAT LIGHT! MADE IT!
WHERE IS HE??
I HEARD SOMETHING OVER THERE!
HOLD YORE FIRE, YUH FOOL! WE'RE LIABLE TO HIT EACH OTHER IN THE DARK!
BLAM
KRASH!
KRAK
KA-POW
Stan Lee
JACK KELLER

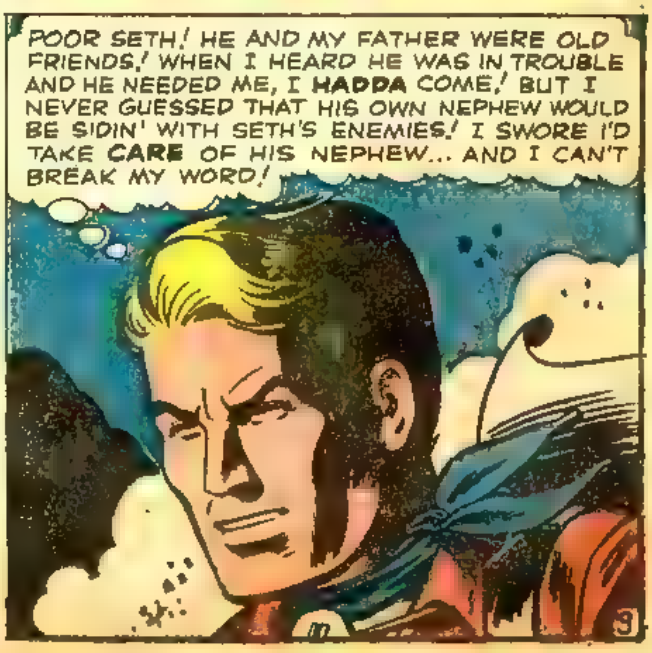

THAT GAVE ME THE CHANCE I NEEDED!
CRASH!


LET'S GO, STEEL! RIDE LIKE YUH NEVER RODE BEFORE!


LOOK! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! AFTER 'IM!

HAH! THE FOOL IS HEADIN' BACK TO GILA PASS!
ONCE WE CORNER HIM THERE, HE'LL HAVE NO PLACE TO RUN!

THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME! I RECKON THEY FIGGER TO BOTTLE ME UP IN TOWN! WELL, THEY'LL HAVE A SURPRISE IN STORE FOR THEM!


POOR SETH! HE AND MY FATHER WERE OLD FRIENDS! WHEN I HEARD HE WAS IN TROUBLE AND HE NEEDED ME, I HADDA COME! BUT I NEVER GUESSED THAT HIS OWN NEPHEW WOULD BE SIDIN' WITH SETH'S ENEMIES! I SWORE I'D TAKE CARE OF HIS NEPHEW... AND I CAN'T BREAK MY WORD!

I'VE ONLY GOT SECONDS TO THINK OF SOMETHING! THE THREE OF THEM ARE HOT ON MY TRAIL!
HIS TRACKS ARE STILL FRESH! HE CAN'T BE MORE'N A FEW MINUTES AHEAD OF US!
QUICK! FAN OUT TILL WE FIND 'IM!
FAN OUT, NOTHIN'! I KNOW AN EASIER WAY!
SHERIFF
SHERIFF, YUH GOTTA FORM A POSSE RIGHT AWAY! KID COLT'S IN TOWN! HE JUST MURDERED SETH BARKER AND HE'S HIDIN' OUT RIGHT HERE IN GILA PASS!
KID COLT!
COVER EVERY ROAD OUT OF TOWN! ARM EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN! NOBODY CAN COMMIT MURDER IN GILA PASS AND GET AWAY WITH IT!
NOW I'VE GOT THE WHOLE TOWN AFTER ME! BUT I'VE GOT TO STAY AND CLEAR MYSELF... AND SEE TO IT THAT THE THRASHERS AND BLACKIE PAY THE PRICE FOR HOUNDING POOR SETH!
10

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE....

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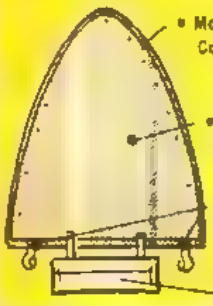

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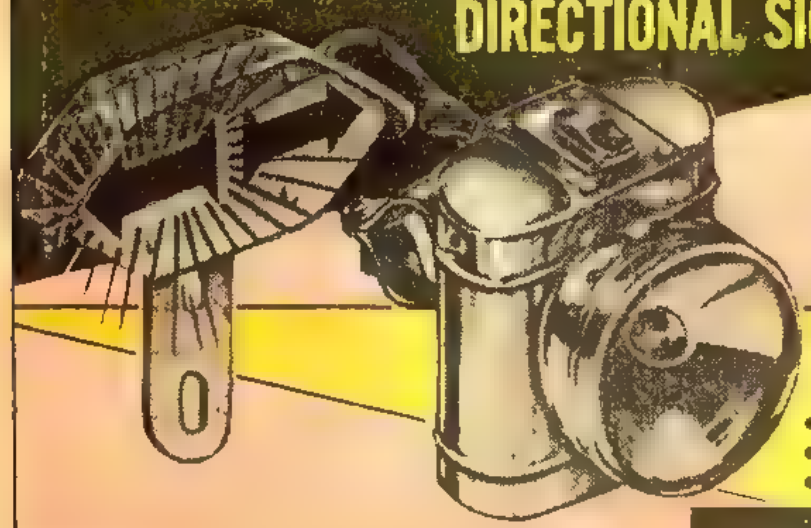

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman delivery and shipping charges.

Name .....

Address .....

KEEP YORE EYES OPEN, RED! THE KID CAN BE ANYWHERE!
AW, WE GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT! LOOK HOW OUT-NUMBERED HE IS!
HE'S PROBABLY SHIVERIN' IN HIS BOOTS RIGHT NOW, HUH, PATCH?
PATCH? HEY, WHERE'D YUH GO??
I'M UP HERE, RED! I FOUND SOMETHIN'! COME ON UP!
HOW'D HE EVER GET UP THERE SO FAST? OH WELL...
WHAT DID YUH FIND, PAT--? UGH!!
THUNK
11

NOW, IF I CAN KEEP THE POSSE OFF MY HEELS FOR A SPELL, I'VE GOT ME A LITTLE SCORE TO SETTLE WITH BLACKIE BARKER!
I TELL YUH, BOYS, YUH SHOULDA SEEN THE KID WHEN I BUSTED INTO MY POOR UNCLE'S CABIN! HE WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT AND HE WAS AFEARED TO FACE ME MAN-TO-MAN, SO HE HIGH-TAILED IT OUTTA THERE LIKE A SCARED RABBIT!
KID COLT? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
NOBODY TALKS BACK TO BLACKIE BARKER, SAVVY? NOBODY!
I DO, BLACKIE!
WHAP
READY, BLACKIE? THIS IS IT!
THE KID!
RUN FOR COVER!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME! I'LL FINISH WHAT I START-- OOOF!!
YORE RIGHT, BLACKIE! WE'RE GONNA FINISH IT-- RIGHT NOW!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON--? HUH? THE KID!
I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YUH, SHERIFF! BLACKIE HAS A LITTLE STORY HE WANTS YUH TO HEAR!
12

I'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY TO--OWWW!
SURE YOU'VE GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY?
BLAM!
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME TALK! YOU CAN'T--UGH!
DON'T BE NERVOUS, BLACKIE!! IF YOU'RE LUCKY, I MAY NOT COME ANY CLOSER ON MY NEXT SHOT!
BLAM!
BLAM!
NO! NO! I'LL TALK! I PLANNED THE WHOLE THING! THE THRASHER TWINS AND I KNEW THERE WAS GOLD ON UNCLE SETH'S LAND... SO WE TRIED TO SCARE HIM OFF!
AND DID I SHOOT SETH BARKER, LIKE YUH SAID??
KA-POW
NO! I MADE IT ALL UP! YOU WERE HIS FRIEND! YOU CAME TO GILA PASS TO HELP HIM! NOBODY KILLED HIM! HE JUST GOT SICK, THAT'S ALL!
BUT FINALLY, HUMAN COURAGE AND ENDURANCE CAN HOLD OUT JUST SO LONG, AND THEN SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE...
I-I'M GLAD YUH HEARD THAT, SHERIFF! BUT NOW, I RECKON YOU GOT ME ANYWAY! I-I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE! MY SHOULDER! I'VE... BEEN SHOT...
KID, YOU NEED A DOCTOR! BUT WE DON'T HAVE ONE IN THIS SMALL TOWN, SO I'M NOT GONNA LOCK YUH UP! INSTEAD, I'M ORDERIN' MUH DEPUTY TO RIDE YOU OVER THE STATE LINE, TO WHERE YOU CAN GET A DOCTOR BEFORE NIGHTFALL!
AND, OF COURSE, ONCE YORE OVER THE STATE LINE, HE'LL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO BRING YUH BACK!
YUH LIED, KID! YUH TOLD MUH UNCLE YOU'D TAKE CARE OF ME! =SOB= YUH LIED!!
I TOLD THE TRUTH, BLACKIE! IF YOU HAD RUN AROUND LOOSE, YOU'D SOONER OR LATER HAVE BEEN SHOT! BY GOING TO JAIL, YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO STRAIGHT! IF THAT AIN'T TAKIN' CARE OF YUH, THEN WHAT IS?
LISTEN TO THOSE WORDS, MISTER!! THAT WAS A MAN TALKIN'!

LOOK!

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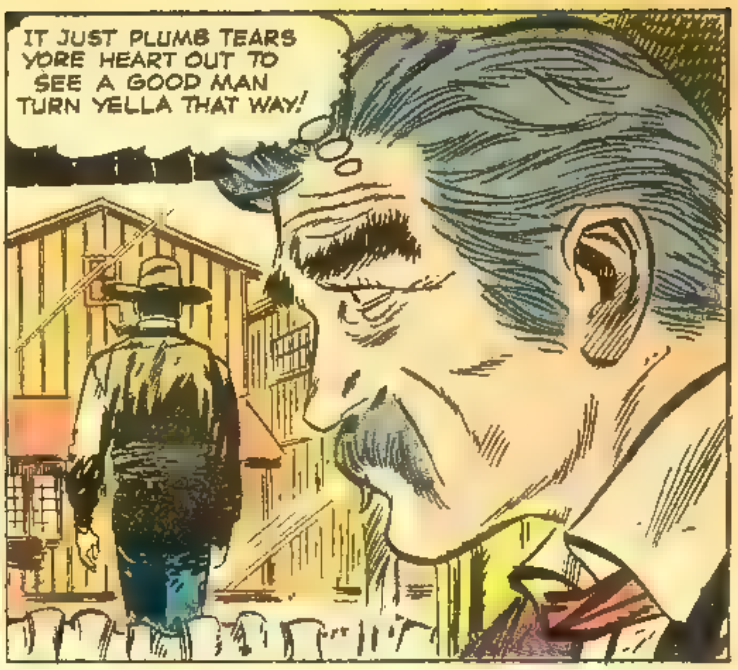
WHEN A MAN'S AFRAID!

IT WAS DAWN IN LARAMIE! TWO FIGURES WALKED SLOWLY TOWARDS EACH OTHER, BODIES TENSE, HANDS TAUT AND TREMBLING, HOVERING OVER THEIR GLISTENING GUN BUTTS! FOR BOTH MEN KNEW THAT ONLY ONE OF THEM WAS DESTINED TO LEAVE THAT STREET-- ALIVE!
CLEM, THE SHERIFF WARNED YUH NOT TO SET FOOT IN TOWN AGAIN!
STAND ASIDE, MISTER! IF THE SHERIFF WANTS TO ORDER ME OUT OF TOWN, IT'S UP TO HIM TO DO HIS OWN FIGHTING! NOW MOVE--OR SLAP LEATHER!

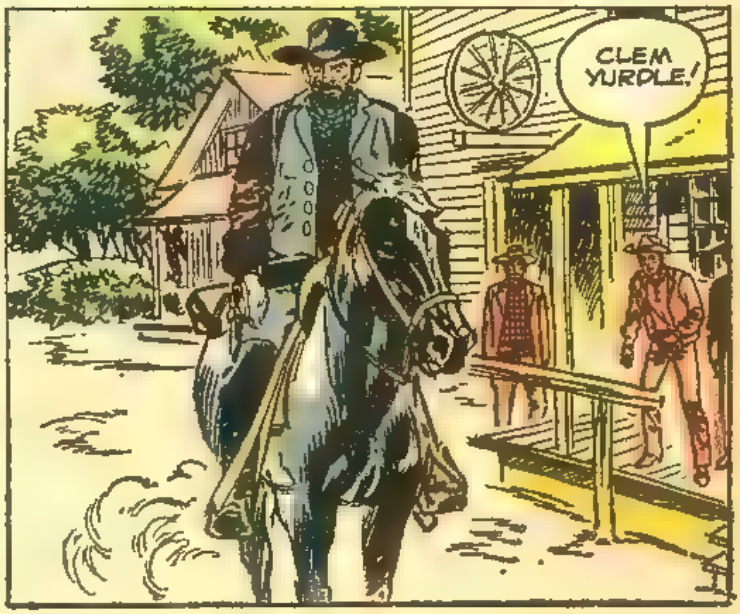
YOU KNOW THE SHERIFF HAS A SPRAINED WRIST! HE CAN'T DRAW AGAINST YOU NOW! THAT'S WHY YOU PICKED THIS TIME TO HAVE A SHOW-DOWN! WELL, IT WON'T WORK!
IT WON'T EH?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! DRAW!
MUH GUN! IT'S CAUGHT IN THE HOLSTER!
BLAM
TOO SLOW! HAW! HAW!
OHHH!
DANG THE LUCK! HERE COMES A POSSE! THEY HEERD THE SHOT! RECKON I'D BETTER BE RIDIN' ON! IT WON'T BE SAFE FOR ME IN THESE PARTS FROM NOW ON!
KA-POW!
ZING!
2

A FEW DAYS LATER, IN THE SMALL OFFICE OF LARAMIE'S LONE DOCTOR...
BEN, YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN! I THINK YOU CAN GET OUT OF BED TODAY! YOUR WOUND HEALED NICELY!
THANKS TO YOU, DOC! IF YOU HADN'T LET ME STAY HERE... AND IF YOU HADN'T TREATED ME...
TELL ME, DOC, I NEVER DID FIND OUT-- WHAT HAPPENED TO CLEM AFTER HE SHOT ME?
NOBODY KNOWS, BEN! AIN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF 'IM SINCE!
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
A FEW MINUTES LATER, AT THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF MACK NORTH...
BEN, MUH BOY! GLAD TO SEE YUH! HOW ARE YUH, SON?
RIGHT ENOUGH, I RECKON, SHERIFF! JUST PAYIN A LITTLE SOCIAL CALL!
BEN, NOW THAT YORE BACK ON YORE FEET AGAIN, I'M HOPIN' YOU'LL TAKE A JOB AS MUH DEPUTY! I COULD SURE USE A GOOD MAN!
SORRY, MACK, IT'S NO DICE!
I COULDN'T STAND HAVIN' TO FACE ANOTHER GUN AGAIN!
I RECKON I JUST PLUMB LOST MUH NERVE!
YOU ONLY THINK SO, SON! I'VE HEARD OF IT HAPPENING BEFORE TO MEN WHO LOSE GUNFIGHTS! BUT ALL YOU'VE GOTTA DO IS TAKE HOLD OF A GOOD COLT AGAIN AND...
NO! NO! TAKE IT AWAY! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO LOOK AT IT!
3

I CAN'T DO IT, MACK-- I'M SCARED-- JUST PLAIN SCARED...


IT JUST PLUMB TEARS YORE HEART OUT TO SEE A GOOD MAN TURN YELLA THAT WAY!

DAYS TURNED INTO WEEKS, AND WEEKS TO MONTHS! IN ALL THAT TIME, BEN WANDERED AROUND THE STREETS OF LARAMIE LIKE A MAN IN A DAZE, UNTIL...
IT'S-- IT'S HIM!


CLEM YURDLE!

WELL WELL, IF'N IT AIN'T THE SHERIFF'S HELPFUL LITTLE FRIEND! I SEE YORE ALL HEALED UP! BUT I RECKON YUH'LL KNOW BETTER THAN TO BUCK CLEM YURDLE AGAIN!

WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, HIS EYES AS COLD AND HARD AS NAKED STEEL, BEN TURNED ON HIS HEEL AND WALKED TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...
HEY! WHERE YUH GOIN'??

MACK, I'M ASKIN' YUH FOR THE LOAN OF A GUN-- AND FOR THAT DEPUTY BADGE YUH ONCE OFFERED TO ME!
THEY'RE **YOURS**, SON! WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED!
SHERIFF
NOW, CLEM, I'M ORDERING YUH TO THROW DOWN YOUR GUN, OR USE IT! IT'S **STILL** AGAINST THE LAW FOR YOU TO ENTER THIS TOWN!
WELL WELL, SO YUH WANNA TASTE LEAD **AGAIN**, EH? WELL THIS TIME I WON'T BE SO **EASY** ON YUH!
SLAP LEATHER!
THIS TIME MY GUN DIDN'T CATCH ON A LOOSE THREAD IN THE HOLSTER, CLEM!
BLAM
SHERIFF, IS THIS MAN STILL WANTED?
YOU BET YORE BOOTS HE IS, BOY! TOSS HIM IN THAT CELL, THEN CALL THE DOC!
I RECKON THAT NO MATTER **HOW** SCARED A MAN IS, THERE COMES A TIME WHEN HE **HAS** TO FIGHT, OR ELSE HE AIN'T FIT TO CALL HIMSELF A MAN!
EVERY HOMBRE IS AFEARED OF SOMETHING, BEN! THE **FEARLESS** MAN WHO FIGHTS IS NO HERO-- BUT THE MAN WHO FIGHTS EVEN THO' HE'S **SCARED** -- **HE'S** THE ONE TO RIDE THE RIVER WITH!
AND SO THE MAN WHO'D BEEN AFRAID, KNEW FEAR NO LONGER!
THE END

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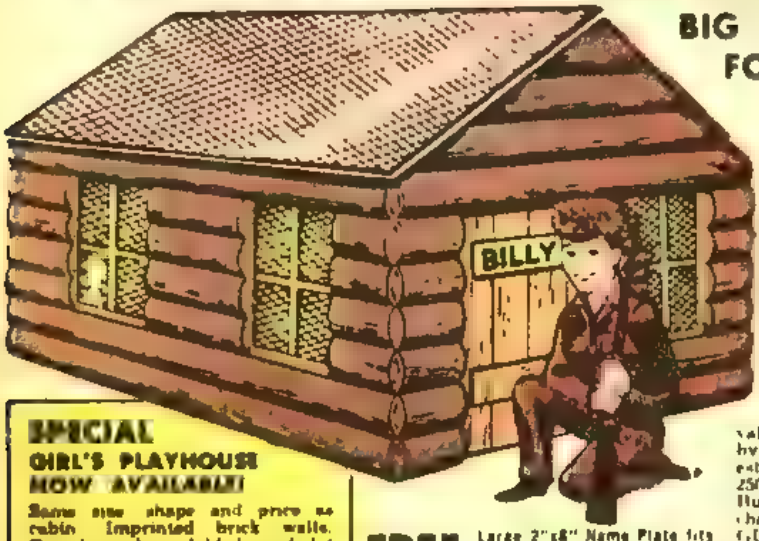

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Name _____
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neaville. It might have been by accident . . . which was never Jed's way . . . that he was gradually overtaken on the road by a party of waddies led by rancher Joe Trumper. He'd found out that Trumper always rode into the county seat on a Tuesday to settle up money accounts and order sundries. He'd also found out something about Rud Hankel. Jed had his guitar out and was strumming it and singing softly as the Trumper party overtook him. It was customary to offer hospitality to a traveling minstrel in exchange for a couple of tunes. Jed introduced himself after a while, and so did Joe Trumper. The pace slowed down until they approached a small, roadside inn.

"How about dinner?" Jed suggested, as was his right.

"Like to oblige," Trumper said. "But Rud Hankel and his bunkhouse crew get in there on Tuesdays just about this time."

Jed nodded in understanding; then he said, "You're not afraid of him, are you? I'm kinda hungry."

Keen eyes regarded him. "No, I'm not afraid," Joe Trumper said. But, thus challenged, he indicated a stop. The inn yard was soon gained, and horses tied up at the railing. There was already quite a few tied up there. Inside, at a long table at the far end of the room, sat Rud Hankel and his men. Silence ensued as the Trumper party seated themselves and ordered dinner. Jed knew that a few songs were still expected . . . but he was already prepared with the right ones. Quietly, he stepped to the middle of the room where a low stool stood before the great fireplace. Then he began to sing.

First he sang "The Young Cowpuncher," and after that "The End of the X Bar X," and then "The Cowpoke's Lament." In between the songs, he carefully watched the diners. They were all eating heartily and at the end of his singing, he knew, he'd have a good meal himself. But they were all listening to him now, the Hankel outfit with as much interest as the Trumper bunkhouse crew. And somehow, Jed felt, the atmosphere of the inn was subtly changing. There had been hostile glances exchanged

when he came in, but they had somewhat softened. Everyone was listening; on each face was a relaxed look. Once more he picked up his guitar. It was in a much sadder vein that he sang now of "The Burning Town," and "Down Boothill Trail." And when he finished and walked toward his seat, there was genuine and loud applause. But suddenly Jed stopped and held up a hand. He looked at Hankel and he looked at Trumper, and then he spoke.

"All you men seem to have liked what I played and sang. I like to sing about the West, but that doesn't mean I like to always sing *sad* laments. It's just that because there was foolishness and stupidity and greed, long ago in the West, that there's so many sad songs to sing. Songs about young cowpunchers who only want to earn a living . . . but who became ghost-riders because they got hot-headed. Songs about ranches with fancy names that ought to have survived, but *didn't* because the men who ran them had no vision . . . and refused to let everybody have a fair share of the fruits of the Western earth. And songs about towns that suffered and people who suffered because men, who thought they were big, weren't big enough to see that they were acting like children. There's a lesson in all those songs," he concluded.

Jed Partriss went to his table and ate, and watched the faces of the two big ranch owners. They were looking straight at each other now, and this time without hatred or suspicion. In the West, men don't speak to really great lengths, and even a glance can convey a good deal of meaning. In the frank looks that passed between Trumper and Hankel, Jed realized a perpetual truce had been signed. They had seen that they stood to lose much more than they could ever gain by a cattle war.

The Trumper party left first. On the way out, Jed's eye was caught by Rud Hankel. "I think I've heard of you," Hankel said pleasantly. "They call you the peaceful man, don't they?"

Jed nodded. "That's right," he said. "And there's not much use of a man's bein' peaceful if he can't bring some of that peace to others."

And strumming his guitar, he went his way.

THE END J-774

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KID COLT OUTLAW

Tales From KID COLT'S Boyhood

"THE MAKING OF THE MAN!"

BEGINNING IN THIS EPIC ISSUE, THE EDITORS OF **KID COLT, OUTLAW,** PRESENT A DRAMATIC NEW FEATURE! IN THE BELIEF THAT IN ORDER TO KNOW A **MAN,** IT IS NECESSARY TO KNOW SOMETHING OF HIS **PAST,** WE PRESENT TALES FROM THE **BOYHOOD** OF KID COLT! YOUR LETTERS, TELLING US HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS SERIES, WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED! ADDRESS THEM TO: THE EDITOR, KID COLT, THIRD FLOOR, 655 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C. 21, N.Y.
AND NOW, LET US GO BACK THRU THE LONG YEARS--BACK TO THE TIME WHEN KID COLT WAS CALLED BY HIS **REAL** NAME: **BLAINE COLT!** BACK TO THE TIME WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, AND SUMMONED TO HIS FATHER'S DEN...

BLAINE, I CALLED YOU IN HERE BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO **GIVE** YOU...
A **PISTOL!** A BRAND NEW PISTOL!
TODAY IS YOUR FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY, SON! YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE YOUR OWN GUN... TO WEAR IT AT YOUR SIDE, PROUDLY!
GOSH!
Stan Lee
JACK KELLER
V-218
1

REMEMBER ONE THING, BLAINE! A GUN IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THE MAN WHO USES IT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DAD?
IN THE HANDS OF A BULLY--OF A BADMAN--A GUN IS A WICKED, DANGEROUS WEAPON!
I KNOW!
BUT WORN BY AN HONEST, DECENT HOMBRE, A GUN IS A FRIEND, A PROTECTOR, AND A THIRD RIGHT ARM!
THE WORKING COWHAND USES HIS GUN TO DIRECT THE CATTLE HE HERDS!
HEEYAH! GIT ALONG, DOGIES!
IT IS USED TO PROTECT A MAN AGAINST RATTLESNAKES, WOLVES, AND THE OTHER NATURAL ENEMIES OF ANY HUMAN!
BUT ONLY THE BULLY AND THE COWARD TRY TO USE IT AGAINST THEIR FELLOW MAN! NEVER FORGET THAT, SON!
I WON'T, DAD! I PROMISE!
2

I HAVE TO GO TO TOWN FOR PROVISIONS NOW, DAD!
ALL RIGHT, SON! SEE YOU AT DINNER TONIGHT!
IT--IT MAKES A FELLA FEEL SORT OF DIFFERENT WITH A PISTOL AT HIS SIDE! IT SURE IS A LOT OF POWER TO BE PACKIN' AT YOUR HIP!
A FEW HOURS LATER...
I SPENT SO LONG FINGERING MY GUN, THAT I'M LATE! I BETTER LOAD UP WITH THE PROVISIONS BEFORE THEY'RE ALL GONE!
AND, AT THAT VERY INSTANT, FATE STEPPED IN...
THIS'LL LEARN YOU TO TRY TO PICK A FIGHT WITH US! HAW HAW!
BUT I DIDN'T TRY--ULP!
LOOK AT THAT!
YOU'RE BEIN' AWFUL ROUGH WITH HIM, JEB! WE DON'T WANNA GIT THE SHERIFF DOWN ON US!
RELAX, HOMBRE! THE SHERIFF WOULDN'T DARE DRAW AGIN' US!
LOOK, HE'S TRYIN' TO STAND UP! RECKON I'LL KNOCK 'IM DOWN AGAIN!
RECKON YUH WON'T, HOMBRE!
3

WELL WELL, IF'N IT AIN'T ANOTHER SHAVER WHO NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!
AND LOOKY THERE! HE'S PACKIN' A GUN!
I DON'T RECKON IT TAKES MUCH COURAGE FOR TWO BIGGER JASPERS TO PUSH A LITTLE FELLA AROUND!
MEBBE NOT, SONNY, BUT NOW WE'RE GONNA DO IT TO YOU, ALSO!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY!
WHUMP!
YOU'RE REALLY LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE! WELL, SONNY, YOU FOUND IT NOW!
AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, THE LEGEND OF KID COLT STARTED... WHEN YOUNG BLAINE COLT'S HAND MOVED AS THOUGH IT HAD A MIND OF ITS OWN!
WH-WHERE'D THAT PISTOL COME FROM?
FROM MY HOLSTER-- NO PLACE ELSE!
THOWW
WHUM!
4

DO YOU WANT TO FINISH THIS OFF? OR CAN WE FIGGER THE MATTER IS CLOSED?
IT'S CLOSED, FELLA! IT'S CLOSED TIGHT AS A DRUM!
HERE, AMIGO--LET ME HELP YOU UP!
I-I SAW WHAT YOU DID, MISTER...
I-I DON'T NEED NO HELP! I'M ALRIGHT--HONEST! I-I JUST WANT TO GET ON HOME!
HE'S AFRAID OF ME!
THEY'RE ALL AFRAID OF ME! IT--IT'S NOT ME! IT'S THE GUN! SUDDENLY I'M SOMEONE TO BE FEARED--TO BE SHUNNED--BECAUSE I'M FAST WITH A GUN!
SLOWLY, THOUGHTFULLY, THE LAD BOUGHT HIS PROVISIONS, LOADED UP THE BUCKBOARD, AND SET OUT FOR THE RANCH AGAIN...
A BOY WITH A GUN STOPS BEING A BOY AS SOON AS HE BUCKLES HIS GUN BELT ON! HE BECOMES A MAN!
AND A MAN WITH A GUN--A GUN THAT'S FAST--IS A MAN APART! A MAN WHO MUST WALK ALONE! A MAN WHO CAN NEVER LET HIS GUARD DOWN--NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE!
SUCH WAS THE MAKING OF THE MAN, BLAINE COLT! SUCH WAS THE FERTILE SOIL ON WHICH THE SEED OF LEGEND WAS TO BE PLANTED AND FLOURISH! SUCH WAS KID COLT... IN THE BEGINNING!
THE END
5

TEST YOUR! TALENT

Contest Prize: $495.00 Scholarship in Commercial Art

Draw your choice of any one of these heads—the baseball player, the girl, or the Indian. Make your drawing any size except like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without cost. Winner receives the complete course in commercial art taught by world's largest home study art school.

Try for this free art course! Professional artists give individual instruction in the student's choice of advertising art, illustrating, cartooning, or painting. The school is an accredited member of National Home Study Council.

Purpose of contest is to uncover hidden talent. Entries for July 1961 contest due by July 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Start on your drawing today.

Use 1 coupon — then pass this page on to a friend

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Studio 4941 • 500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.
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Occupation_____ AGE____
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2. **ART INSTRUCTION, INC.**
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County_____ State____

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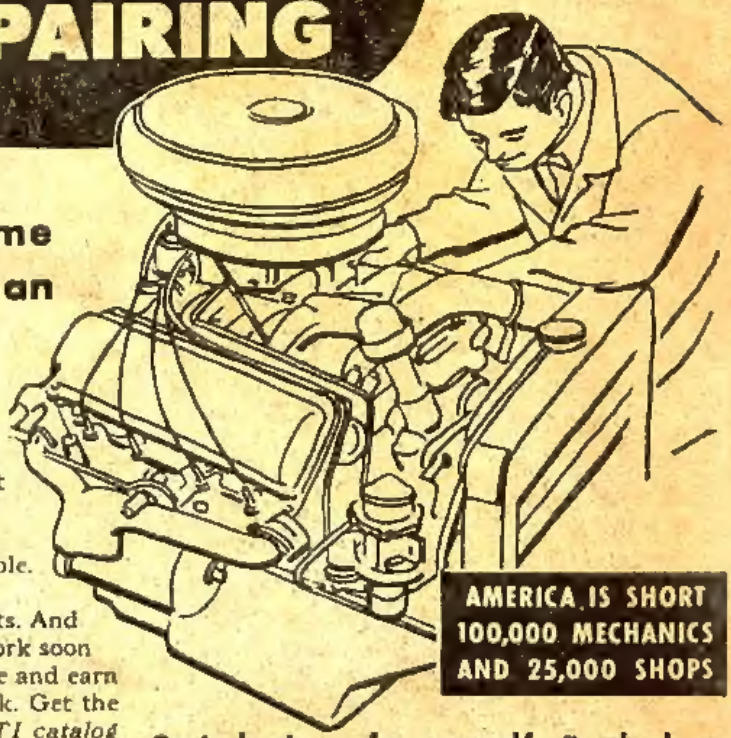

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It starts you earning spare-time money in weeks – Makes you an expert mechanic in months!

No longer need you stand by as experienced mechanics take their choice of the 100,000 job openings in the auto repairing field. Now you can get ready for the big money—the bright future—in just a few months. *Now you can have new CTI training.*

This wonderful new home study course is better written, more clearly illustrated, more understandable. It offers more up-to-date, fresh, usable knowledge. It includes finer tools, more costly testing instruments. And it's so practical that you can put your training to work soon after you enroll—you can actually fix cars spare time and earn good money. Many students earn $20 to $50 a week. Get the complete story: *Mail coupon below for the new CTI catalog and sample lesson.* All free! No cost or obligation!

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Auto mechanics in the large cities average $3.00 an hour. If you prefer, you can open a shop. An expert says that America is short 25,000 repair shops. CTI provides you with the required all-around training to go on your own. You learn tune-up and overhaul; electric, cooling and lubricating systems; power steering; power brakes; automatic transmissions. Even your choice of Diesel Mechanics or Body & Fender Repairing instruction!

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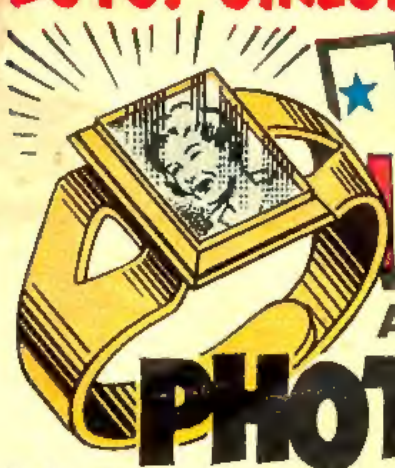

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Ring is a real dazzler! Made of sturdy brass in a 16K gold electro-plated finish. Size quickly adjustable to fit ANY finger!

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